(d) The steps taken by the Government for proper conservation of black buck are as follows:

(i) 'Black Buck' has been included in the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby providing it the highest degree of protection. Hunting of black buck has been prohibited.

(ii) A network of 566 wildlife protected areas covering 4.6% of country's geographical area has been created for conservation of wild flora and fauna which has helped in protecting the habitat of black buck.

(iii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for development and management of the protected areas. Raids are carried out by wildlife authorities to curb poaching and illegal trade of wild animals.

(iv) International trade in wildlife and its products has regulated under the provisions of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). Export of all forms of wild animals including their parts and products is prohibited under the EXIM policy.

(v) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

Missing of tiger skins from Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Reserve Forest Department

1306. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several tiger skins are missing from the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam reserve forest department; and

(b) if so, the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As reported by the State Government, no Tiger skin is missing from Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve.

(b) Question does not arise.